

8EHQ-0303-15298

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ATOFINA Chemicals, Inc.

March 10, 2003

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Document Control Office [7407M]
Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

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2003 MAR 20 AM 11:19

RFP-03-06

Attn: Section 8(e) Coordinator

Dear Sir/Madam:

The 2-Mercaptoethanol Consortia is submitting preliminary results from a repeat dose/reproductive/developmental toxicity study in rats to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) pursuant to Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Section 8(e). The study provides information on 2-mercaptoethanol (CAS No. 60-24-2). This study does not involve effects in humans.

This submission is being made by ATOFINA Chemicals, Inc. on behalf of the 2-Mercaptoethanol Consortia member companies: ATOFINA, Chevron Phillips Chemical Company LLD, and BASF AG. Nothing in this letter or the enclosed study summary is considered confidential business information of the 2-Mercaptoethanol Consortia or of the sponsoring companies in the consortia.

In this study, 2-mercaptoethanol (15, 50 and 75 mg/kg/day) was administered by oral gavage to female Sprague Dawley rats 5 week prior to and during mating, as well as, during pregnancy. During the course of the study, we were notified that females in the mid- (2/10) and high-dose (5/10) group died during parturition. The fetal development and dam growth during development were normal, but the dams were unable to deliver due to the absence of uterine contractions. The parturition in the low-dose group females was normal. A summary of mortality and number of litters after parturition is presented below. The study director communicated the data described verbally; reports have not yet been written.

Group (mg/kg/day)	Mortality	# Non-pregnant	# Litters
0	0/10	0	10
15	0/10	0	10
50	3/10	1	6
75	6/10	1	3

Additional information will be submitted once the final report is obtained. Further questions regarding this submission may be directed to me at (215) 419-5890.

Sincerely,

Debra Randall, D.A.B.T.
Product Safety Manager



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Enclosures

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